



Rural Health
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Rural Health

311 Ashe Avenue Raleigh, NC 27606

Phone: 919.527.6440 • Fax: 919.733.8300

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh>



North Carolina Telepsychiatry Program

2017 Profile (Data from State Fiscal Year 2017 and current as of 6/30/2017)

Program Facts

.....

\$1.6M

Annual grant appropriation and carry forward from the General Assembly to NC-SteP

\$693K

Program support in philanthropic funding through the Duke Endowment

36

Consultant providers

57

Average length of stay in hours

57

Total number of Telepsychiatry referring sites

2,816

Number of involuntary commitments overturned (IVC)

10,130

Total number of reports of involuntary commitment

26,669

Assessments provided

Overview

The N.C. Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-SteP) was developed in response to Session Law 2013-360, directing ORH to oversee a statewide telepsychiatry program. The program was instituted so that an individual presenting at a hospital emergency department with an acute behavioral health crisis will receive a timely specialized psychiatric assessment via video conferencing technology. The practice of telepsychiatry, through NC-SteP, allows for the psychiatric evaluation of patients, through videoconferencing technology, in emergency departments lacking psychiatric staff. Telepsychiatry is defined as "the delivery of acute mental health or substance abuse care, including diagnosis or treatment, by means of two-way real-time interactive audio and video by a consulting provider at a consultant site to an individual patient at a referring site."

Source: Session Law 2013-360

Overall, the program has generated cost savings from overturned involuntary commitments, which benefitted state psychiatric facilities, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, Medicare, Medicaid, and many other stakeholders. Specific to state psychiatric facilities, the program has achieved estimated cumulative cost savings of \$15,066,000.

Return On Investment and Economic Impact

Source: IMPLAN

NC-SteP Expenditures **\$1,583,474** + Created Economic Impact **\$1,131,858** = Total Impact **\$2,715,332**

Generates **20** additional jobs from the economic impact



\$126,690 Generated in state and local taxes which goes back into the local and state economy



\$1,178,320 In employee compensation impacted from the grant

Each NC-SteP grant dollar has a total economic impact of

\$1.72

72% ROI

*Economic impact is estimated to be much greater because improved health outcomes can lead to fewer missed work days, reduced health care costs, and reduced premature morbidity and mortality. Some expenses such as out of state purchases, overhead, and rollover payments are not captured for ROI and economic impact.

Importance

There are 35 counties in NC that are classified as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Though not designated, there are additional counties that have a very low supply of mental health professionals in proportion to the population.

This use of technology can reduce patients' length of stay in the emergency department (which can last for days in some cases) and overturn unnecessary involuntary commitments, thereby reducing the burden on staff and reducing costs to the state and federal governments, as well as the private sector.

Grant Expenditures

\$1.62M

State Appropriations

\$693K

Philanthropic funding from the Duke Endowment



Department of Health and Human Services | Office of Rural Health
311 Ashe Avenue | 2009 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, NC 27699-2009
919 527 6440 T | 919 733 8300 F



Rural Health
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Rural Health
311 Ashe Avenue Raleigh, NC 27606
Phone: 919.527.6440 • Fax: 919.733.8300
<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh>



North Carolina Telepsychiatry Program

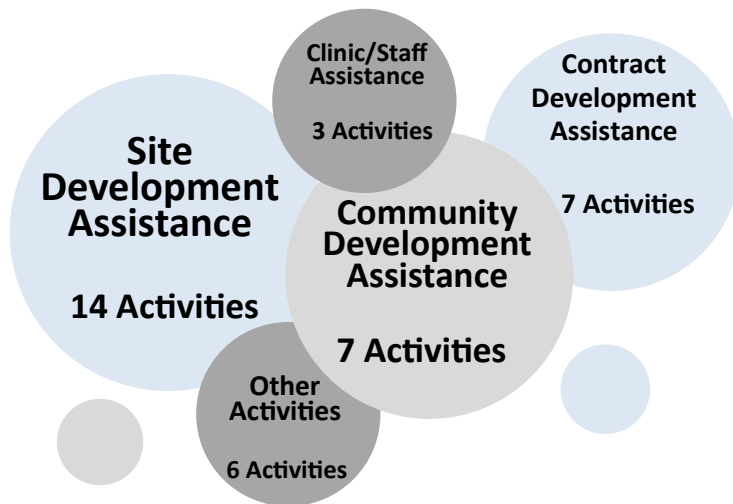
2017 Profile (Data from State Fiscal Year 2017 and current as of 6/30/2017)



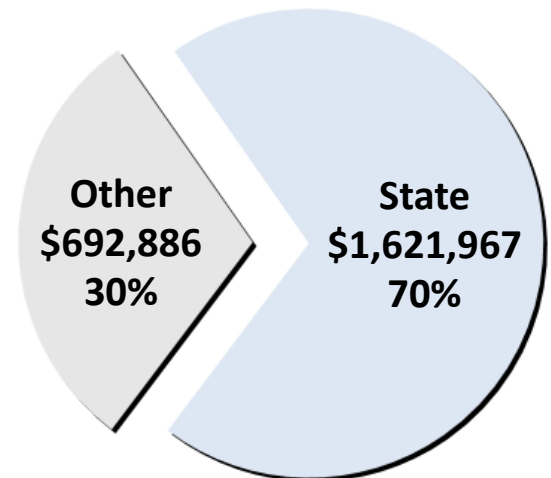
Technical Assistance

37 Activities to
31 Counties

Provided by ORH Staff



Total Program Funding*



*Estimate based on budget reorganization.
Funding also reflects carry forward from SFY 2016

Program Reach

42

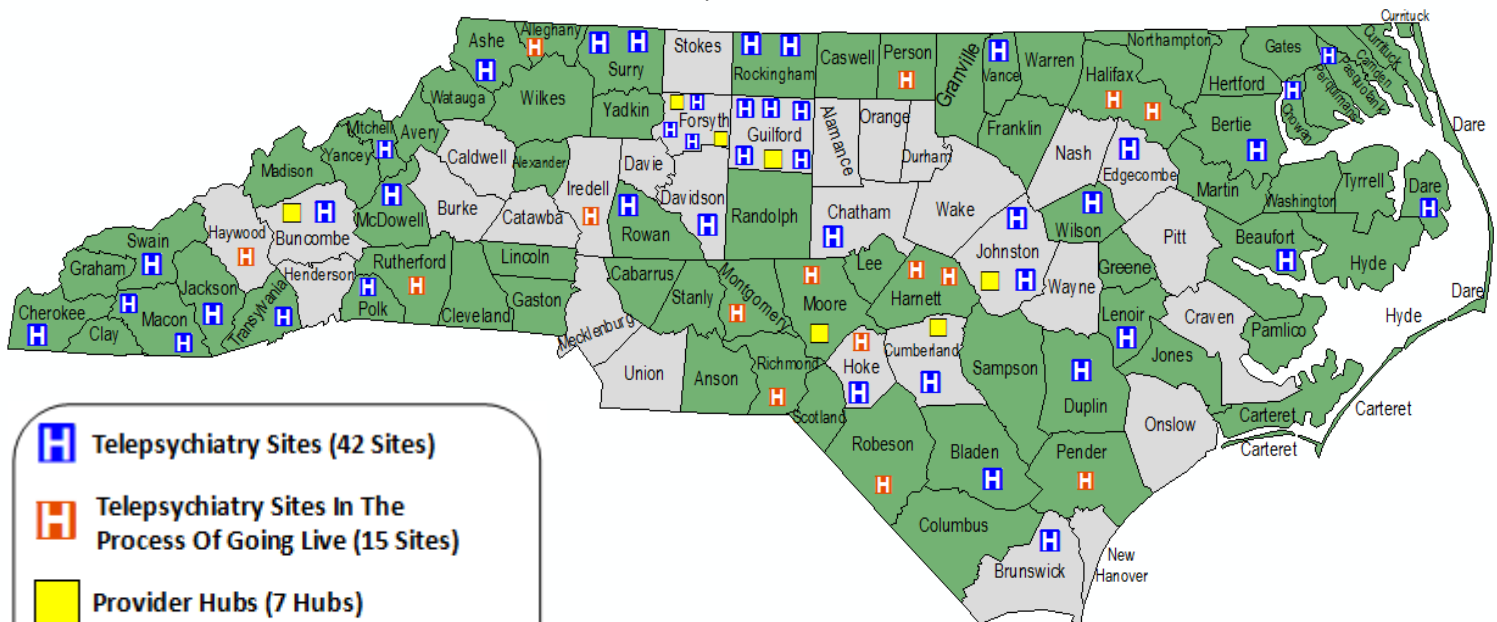
Live Hospitals

15

Hospitals in Process

7

Provider Hubs



If you have further questions, please contact:
Brian Cooper, MHA
Telepsychiatry & Rural Hospital Specialist
Phone: 919-527-6494
brian.cooper@dhhs.nc.gov

Nothing ComparesSM

Department of Health and Human Services | Office of Rural Health
311 Ashe Avenue | 2009 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, NC 27699-2009
919 527 6440 T | 919 733 8300 F